

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 QUITO 01344 011903Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 /073 W
-----020508 096410/12

R 017133Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3362
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T QUITO 1344

CARACAS FOR DEA DEPT FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EC
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES
CORRUPTION WITH MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 15289, STATE 301197 (NOTAL), STATE 27870,
QUITO 1006 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT ON FEBRUARY 28 TO DISCUSS OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT REITERATING HIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO CARRY ON AND REINFORCE USG'S ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE TRAFFIC OF ILLICIT DRUGS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS PLACED ON OUR CONCERNS ABOUT CORRUPTION, PARTICULARLY AS MANIFESTED BY THE FACT THAT MAJOR TRAFFICKERS ARE SELDOM TRIED IN THE COURTS AND THAT DRUG SEIZURES APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN RESOLD BY POLICE OFFICIALS. DISCUSSION ALSO EXTENDED TO GOE'S USE OF ITS OWN FUNDS FOR DRUG CONTROL ENFORCEMENT, THE PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE USG FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL, AND THE CONTINUATION IN NARCOTICS WORK OF POLICE OFFICIALS TRAINED BY USG IN THIS FIELD.

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THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WAS RAISING HIS CONCERN REGARDING THE PROGRAM AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE FOR TWO REASONS: (1) OUR PROGRAM AGREEMENTS WERE UP FOR RENEWAL AND (2) HE WAS AWARE THAT SEVERAL KEY OFFICIALS IN THE POLICE HAD BEEN OR WERE ABOUT TO BE REPLACED AND HE HOPED THAT, WITH THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST, THE NEW OFFICIALS COULD BE INDUCED TO TAKE A MORE RIGOROUS APPROACH.

2. THE MINISTER OF GOVT SEEMED SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO RECTIFY ANY SHORTCOMINGS WITHIN THE PROGRAM. HE TOOK NOTES AND ASKED QUESTIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD RECENTLY REMOVED THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OF THE POLICE BECAUSE OF "IRREGULARITIES", AND THAT HE HAD RECENTLY HAD ENACTED A LAW REQUIRING DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED NARCOTICS AFTER ANALYSIS. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION BY THE POLICE AND ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE TREATED WITH CONFIDENCE.

3. IN FEBRUARY THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT FOR THE ECUADOREAN POLICE AND A SUBSECRETARY OF GOVT FOR POLICE WERE CHANGED. THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE IN MARCH. WE BELIEVE THE AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE MAY HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR OF THESE KEY OFFICIALS' REPLACEMENTS. PROVIDING THAT THIS PROVES TO BE THE CASE AND THAT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD THE NEGOTIATION OF NEW PROJECT AGREEMENTS, THE MISSION WILL RELEASE TO THE ECUADOREAN POLICE THE 7 VEHICLES DESIGNATED FOR THAT INSTITUTION ON WHICH WE HAVE WITHHELD DELIVERY.
BLOOMFIELD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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